

Message Text

SECRET

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21/64

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 DODE-00 VO-01 SCA-01 NSC-05

NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 L-01 SP-02 CPR-01 PM-03 A-01

PPT-01 /044 W

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R 131333Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3443

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BUDAPEST 1812

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y P A R A 1

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, HU

SUBJ: CLOSED AREA RESTRICTIONS

REF: STATE 135181 AND PREVIOUS

1. MCAULIFFE REQUESTED APPOINTMENT AND CALLED ON DEPFONMIN NAGY AFTERNOON JUNE 11. HE REFERRED TO NAGY'S MARCH 1974 AND NOVEMBER 1974 CONVERSATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR PEDERSEN AND TO VARKONYI'S JUNE 10 EXPRESSION OF GOH DESIRE TO DO AWAY WITH CLOSED AREA RESTRICTIONS ON DIPLOMATS AND OFFICIALS IN BOTH COUNTRIES (BUDAPEST 1658). NAGY DECLARED THAT IT HAD BEEN FIRM AND UNALTERED GOH POLICY TO DO AWAY WITH ALL "ARTIFICIAL RESTRICTIONS" SPAWNED BY COLD WAR. HE SAID HE HAD MADE ORAL PROPOSAL ALONG THESE LINES TO AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND AS LONG AGO AS 1969 AND THAT HE AND OTHER SENIOR HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS HAVE CONSISTENTLY HELD TO THAT POSITION. NAGY ALSO SAID VERY MATTER-OF-FACTLY THAT HUNGARY HAD NEVER PUT FORWARD

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WRITTEN PROPOSAL TO DO AWAY WITH TRAVEL CONTROLS ON OFFICIALS IN

THE TWO COUNTRIES SINCE U.S. HAD TAKEN INITIATIVE IN
INSTITUTING THEM. IT WAS UP TO WASHINGTON, IN BUDAPEST'S
VIEW, TO MAKE FIRST MOVE TOWARD THEIR ABOLITION.

2. HAVING THANKED NAGY PROFUSELY FOR HIS CLEAR AND UNEQUIVOCAL
STATEMENT OF GOH POLICY, MCAULIFFE GAVE HIM CARBON COPY OF
NOTE BASED ON STATE 135181. WHEN NAGY HAD FINISHED READING,
MCAULIFFE SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO SIGN ORIGINAL AND RECEIVE
MFA RESPONSE RIGHT THEN AND THERE. WHEN TWO GOVERNMENTS WERE
IN FULL AGREEMENT, IT WAS ALWAYS PREFERABLE TO REDUCE THEIR
AGREEMENT TO WRITING EXPEDITIOUSLY AND LET THEIR JOINT
DECISION TAKE EFFECT AT ONCE. NAGY THEN SAID GOH DECISION TO
DO AWAY WITH CLOSED AREAS IS FIRM ONE BUT THAT HE NEEDED
"FOUR OR FIVE DAYS" TO COORDINATE OPERATIONAL DETAILS WITH
OTHER MINISTRIES BEFORE HE COULD INITIAL HUNGARIAN NOTE
SIGNIFYING ITS ASSENT TO U.S. PROPOSAL. HE SUGGESTED
AMBASSADOR LEAVE EMBASSY NOTE WITH HIM, PROMISING THAT WHILE
BUSINESS WOULD CERTAINLY BE WRAPPED UP WITHIN ONE WEEK.
MCAULIFFE DECLINED SAYING THAT USG HAD PROMPTLY RESPONDED TO
VARKONYI'S JUNE 10 HINT. IF ONE ALLOWED A WEEK TO ELAPSE
BETWEEN DELIVERY OF EMBASSY NOTE AND RECEIPT OF MFA REPLY,
SOME MIGHT GET FALSE IMPRESSION THAT USG IMPORTUNING HUNGARY
TO DO AWAY WITH CLOSED ZONES. IN POINT OF FACT, AS ALREADY
STATED TO VARKONYI, PRESENT TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS WHICH ARE
STUPIED AND USELESS DO NOT INTERFERE IN ANY WAY WITH NORMAL
FUNCTIONING OF AMERICAN EMBASSY BUDAPEST. MCAULIFFE THEN
COUNTERPROPOSED THAT DEPONMIN FIRST EFFECT NECESSARY
COORDINATION WITH HIS COUNTRYMEN AND, WHEN PROCESS WAS COMPLETE,
SUMMON AMBASSADOR TO MFA FOR EXCHANGE OF NOTES.

3. NAGY THEN ASKED WHETHER U.S. INTENDED ABOLISH RESTRIC-
TIONS ON BORDER-CROSSING AND EXIT/ENTRY POINTS. MCAULIFFE
SAID U.S. PROPOSAL DEALS ONLY WITH ABOLITION OF CLOSED AREAS.
VARKONYI ON JUNE 10 MENTIONED ONLY CLOSED AREAS; AND U.S. HAD
RESPONDED PROMPTLY AND PRECISELY TO HUNGARIAN HINT. NAGY THEN
HEMMED AND HAWED DECLARING THERE WAS LITTLE LEGAL, POLITICAL
OR RATIONAL EXPLANATION FOR ABOLISHING CLOSED AREAS NEAR
NATIONAL FRONTIERS WHEN AMERICAN OFFICIALS WOULD STILL BE
UNABLE TO CROSS BORDER INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND HUNGARIAN
OFFICIALS WOULD STILL BE UNABLE TO CROSS BORDER INTO

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MEXICO. WARMING TO HIS THEME NAGY ARGUED THAT IT MADE
NO SENSE AT ALL TO DENY OFFICIALS OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS
THE USE OF EXIT/ENTRY POINTS WHEN TOURISTS, JOURNALISTS
AND OTHER PRIVATE PERSONS FROM BOTH COUNTRIES CAN USE THEM
FREELY. MOST COUNTRIES, HE OBSERVED, EMPLOY JOURNALISTS
AND BUSINESSMEN TO GATHER THE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION
THEY SEEK; AND, WITH 70,000 AMERICANS VISITING HUNGARY
AND SOME 7,000 HUNGARIANS VISITING THE USG, IT JUST MADE

NO SENSE TO RESTRICT THE MOVEMENT OF BEARERS OF DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL PASSPORTS TO A LIMITED NUMBER OF ENTRY/EXIT POINTS. MCAULIFFE REJOINED THAT THERE IS PRECIOUS LITTLE THAT U.S. NEEDS OR WANTS TO KNOW ABOUT MEN, EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES IN HUNGARY. FURTHER, AS NAGY AND EVERY WELL-INFORMED HUNGARIAN MUST KNOW, THOSE SERVICES WHICH GATHER INFORMATION FOR USG PREFER TO RELY ON MODERN, SOPHISTICATED MEANS RATHER THAN ON CRUDE METHODS THAT WERE IN VOGUE HALF CENTURY AGO.

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 DODE-00 VO-01 SCA-01 NSC-05

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/042 W

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R 131333Z JUN 75 ZFG
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3444
INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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LIMDIS

3. NAGY THEN SAID THAT TO ELIMINATE CLOSED AREA RESTRICTIONS WITHOUT ALSO ABOLISHING LIMITATIONS ON ENTRY/EXIT POINTS COULD CAUSE ADMINISTRATIVE CONFUSION AND POSSIBLY WORSEN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE U.S. AND HUNGARY RATHER THAN IMPROVE IT. IN THAT CONNECTION HE RECALLED "UNFORTUNATE MISUNDERSTANDINGS" THAT HAD OCCURRED WITH RESPECT TO MOVEMENTS AND TRAVEL OF RESPECTIVE AMBASSADORS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR CHAUFFEURS (BUDAPEST A-53, MAY 29, 1975; BUDAPEST 3118 OF NOV. 8, 1974). MCAULIFFE SAID HE ASSUMED FROM TENOR OF NAGY'S REMARKS THAT GOH WOULD PREFER NOT REPEAT NOT TO NULLIFY CLOSED AREA RESTRICTIONS UNTIL SUCH TIME AS

EXIT/ENTRY POINT RESTRICTIONS COULD ALSO BE RESOLVED.
WHEN NAGY FUDGED, MCAULIFFE SAID HE WOULD REPORT GOH
POSITION TO DEPARTMENT. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, AND RECALLING
TRADITIONAL NEW ENGLAND MAXIM "TAKE THE CASH AND LET THE
CREDIT GO," MCAULIFFE SAID HE BELIEVED GRADUALISM WAS
GOOD POLICY IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES. NAGY COMMENTED THAT
HE UNDERSTOOD THAT U.S. AND POLAND HAD DONE AWAY WITH
"CLOSED AREAS, ETC." SOME TIME AGO. WHEN MCAULIFFE
ASKED WHETHER ABOLITION OF TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS IN POLISH
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CASE HAD ALSO APPLIED TO EXIT/ENTRY POINTS, NAGY SAID HE
DID NOT KNOW.

4. IT WAS LEFT THAT MCAULIFFE WOULD CONTACT NAGY AGAIN
WHEN HE HAD CLARIFIED EXIT/ENTRY POINTS WITH DEPARTMENT.
IN PARTING NAGY ASKED THAT EMBASSY BUDAPEST CONVEY TO
DEPARTMENT HUNGARIAN THANKS FOR ITS CONSTRUCTIVE
INITIATIVE.

5. COMMENT: ON JUNE 10, VARKONYI ASKED FOR VANILLA
ICE CREAM. THANKS TO DEPARTMENT'S PROMPT RESPONSE,
MCAULIFFE DELIVERED TO NAGY ON JUNE 11 ONE SERVING OF
VANILLA ICE CREAM. NAGY UPON SEEING HIS PORTION STATED
THAT AMERICAN VANILLA ICE CREAM ALWAYS SERVED WITH
FUDGE SAUCE. WE FOR OUR PART HOPE THAT DEPARTMENT WILL
GO ABOUT TASK OF CONCOCTING DELICIOUS FUDGE SAUCE AS PART
OF ITS REGULAR BUSINESS; BUT THERE IS NO HURRY.
VANILLA ICE CREAM SAFELY LOCKED UP IN EMBASSY BUDAPEST'S
FREEZER. WE SHALL WAIT FOR INQUIRIES FROM FONOFF. IT
WAS A USEFUL AND HOPEFULLY AN INSTRUCTIVE EXERCISE FOR
ALL CONCERNED.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: SINCE SUNDAES USUALLY COST MORE
THAN ICE CREAM WITHOUT TOPPING, PLEASE ADVISE EMBASSY
BUDAPEST WHEN FUDGE SAUCE READY FOR SERVING.
MCAULIFFE

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